(ग) यदि हां, तो यह योजना कब तक स्वीकृत होगी तथा यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण है?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सोमपाल): (क) और (ख) उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार से ऐसा कोई प्रस्ताव प्राप्त नहीं हुआ है। तथापि, राज्य ने डीजल प्रचालित नलकूपों और पम्पिंग सैटों के तहत आने वाले लगभग 1.9 लाख हैक्टर धान नर्सरी क्षेत्र के लिए किसानों को सिंचाई संबंधी राजसहायता प्रदान करने का एक प्रस्ताव भेजा है। राज्य सरकार ने 550 लाख रुपये की सहायता की मांग की है ताकि दो बार सिंचाई के लिए प्रति सिंचाई 25 लीटर प्रति हैक्टेयर की दर से डीजल की लागत को वहन किया जा सके।

(ग) सिंचाई संबंधी राजसहायता के लिए राज्य को सहायता प्रदान करना सम्भव नहीं हो सका है क्योंकि चावल और गेहूं आधारित फसल प्रणाली वाले क्षेत्रों (आई॰सी॰डी॰पी॰-चावल और आई॰सी॰डी॰पी॰-गेहूं) में समेकित अनाज विकास कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत ऐसा कोई प्रावधान नहीं है।

Formation of Kisan Clubs

2473. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any scheme to encourge the formation of "Kisan Clubs" or "Farmers Clubs" to organise the farming community;

(b) if so, the details of such a proposal;

(c) whether it is a fact that due to lack of organisation, various research institutes are unable to disseminate knowledge; and

(d) what steps are proposed to encourage better communication skills for farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) There is no specific scheme for formation of "Kisan Clubs" "Farmers Clubs". However, farmers groups are encouraged for exposure visits to the more agriculturally developed States under Central Sector Farmers Exchange Scheme. Also, farm women groups are promoted through a Central Sector Scheme "Women in Agriculture" for upgradation of skills. The scope and coverage of both these schemes is proposed to be expanded during IXth plan period.

(c) Research institutions through their field extension programmes, Krishi Vigyan Kendras, farmers training, field demonstration etc. are involved in the dissemination of knowledge and technologies to the farmers both on individual and group basis.

(d) Farmers skills are updated through various programmes/activities like training, field demonstration, exposure visits, interface with the scientists, print and mass media support, organising Kisan Melas, Kisan Goshties, field visits and field days.

Meeting of World forum on Fish Workers

2474. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the meeting of the First World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers held in New Delhi in November 1997 or thereabout;

(b) if so, the details of the subjects discussed in the meeting; and

(c) whether Government have received any communication from the Forum about the subjects discussed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The World Forum of Fish-harvesters and Fish-workers (WFF) meet was held in New Delhi from 17—21 November, 1997. As per the papers/report made available by the organisers of the World Forum of Fish-harvesters and Fish-workers, the following major topics were discussed in the meeting.

(i) Natural resource management and property rights,

(ii) Global fishery trend and their implications on fishing communities,

(iii) International instruments on fisheries and their relevance to fisheries,

(iv) Substainability and role of women in Fisheries, and

(v) Common property fishing rights: Coastal resources for coastal communities.

Development of Coconut farming in Kerala

2475. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had taken any decision to assist the Kerala Government to implement the project for development of coconut farming system in the State;

(b) if no decision has been taken, what are the reasons for the delay; and

(c) whether Government would give necessary financial assistance to the Kerala Government to implement this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) The Project for Development of Coconut Farming System in Kerala envisages eradication of root (wilt) affected disease advanced productivity of existing palms. Most of the measures suggested in the project are already being supported under various programmes of the Coconut Development Board. During 1997-98, out of a total allocation of Rs. 19.75 crores for various cococut development programmes, the Board released Rs. 10.28 crores to the State of Kerala. For the year 1998-99, an allocation of Rs. 10.41 crores has been made for Kerala.

किसानों द्वारा लिए गए ऋणों का पुनर्निर्धारण

2476. डॉ॰ वाई॰ लक्ष्मी प्रसाद: क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या आन्ध्र प्रदेश और कर्नाटक के एक शिष्ट मंडल ने राज्यों में उन किसानों द्वारा लिए गये ऋणों का पुनर्निर्धारण करने के लिए सरकार से अनुरोध किया है जिनकी फसलें मानसून न आने और महामारी के प्रकोप के कारण प्रभावित हुई हैं; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में क्या कार्रवाई की गई है?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सोमपाल): (क) और (ख) जी हां, भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक ने आन्ध्र प्रदेश राज्य सरकार के परामर्श से प्रभावित किसानों के लिए एक राहत पैकेज की घोषणा की है जिसमें अन्य बातों के साथ-साथ दो वर्षों की अवधि के लिए प्रभावित किसानों से मूल राशि अथवा ब्याज की वसूली न करना और दो वर्षों की प्रारंभिक विलम्बन अवधि को छोड़कर सात वर्षों की अवधि के लिए ऋण का परिवर्तन/पुनर्निर्धारण शामिल है। कर्नाटक राज्य में भी, राज्य स्तरीय बैंकर समिति ने संबंधित बैंकों को जिला अधिकारियों द्वारा सामान्य उपज के 50 प्रतिशत से कम उपज के लिए जारी किये गये प्रमाण पत्रों के आधार पर चालू ऋणों को पुनर्निर्धारित करने की सलाह दी है।

Rural Credit Policy for Farmers

2477. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact the more than 170 farmers have committed suicide in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra during this year, is so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government had chalked out any rural credit policy especially for the farmers engaged in the cultivation of commercial crops like cotton, dal, chillies, tomatoes etc. who are the worstaffected persons because of high cost involved in the cultivation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the steps Government propose to take to ameliorate the sufferings of poor farmers?